

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—GOTTSCHEK'S CONCERT.—LUTIA DI LAMBERG.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—COLLEEN BAWN.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—THE TON'S CAROL.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, No. 314 Broadway.—THE CATS.

LAFRA KENNEDY'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE MARY.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, No. 107.—PAULINE.—SKECHES.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STICKNEY'S NATIONAL CIRCUS.

BARNEY'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—CON.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—CHAS. H. BERRY.

ROOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Stuyvesant Institute, No. 65 Broadway.—FOR A FID.—STUYVESANT SONGS, DANCES, &amp;c.

MELODEON CONCERT HALL, 59 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, &amp;c.—MILITARY LIFE OF BLACKBURN.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 225 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, &amp;c.—THE NEWMAN AT THE FAIR.

CAJETER'S CONCERT ROOM, 62 Broadway.—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENT, BALLS, PATRONIZERS, &amp;c.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 44 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, &amp;c.—THE NEWMAN AT THE FAIR.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Bowery.—SONGS, DANCES, &amp;c.—TWO CLOWNS.

PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 503 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 416 Broadway.—BURLESQUES SONGS, DANCES, &amp;c.

New York, Friday, February 28, 1862.

## DAILY CIRCULATION OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Sunday, February 16	104,016
Monday, February 17	118,080
Tuesday, February 18	118,968
Wednesday, February 19	117,720
Thursday, February 20	113,328
Friday, February 21	112,896
Saturday, February 22	118,900
Total	803,598
Average daily circulation	114,829

The above figures, which can be verified from our books, give the circulation of the New York Herald for the week just past. We believe that it more than equals the aggregate circulation of all the other daily papers in this city, and of course it far surpasses that of any one of them. The advantages which the Herald affords to advertisers are self-evident.

## THE SITUATION.

Nothing of an important character reaches up from the national capital, or the army of the Potomac. A report that Jefferson Davis has made overtures to the government for a compromise obtains much credence in Washington, and it is said that the rebel leader asks for a convention of all the States, in which the difficulties between the South and our government shall be finally adjusted, including fresh guarantees for the protection of the Southern institution of slavery. This is only one among many sensation reports now floating about Washington, and has probably no foundation in fact.

The enactment of the Treasury Note bill has caused a tremendous pressure for the new notes at the Treasury Department, and Mr. Chase is kept constantly occupied in hastening the printing and signing of the notes, so as to supply the increasing demand.

The President issued an order yesterday creating General John A. Dix and Hon. Edwards Pierpont, of New York, a special commission to examine the cases of State prisoners, now in custody, and determine whether it is most consonant with public safety that they shall be liberated or sent to civil tribunals for trial.

Our intelligence to-day from the North Carolina expedition is of considerable importance. Despatches were received at the Navy Department yesterday from Commodore Goldsborough, stating that our forces were in possession of the Seaboard Railroad, and had destroyed the bridges across the Blackwater and Nottaway rivers, thus cutting off all communication between the seacoast and Norfolk and Richmond. The Commodore also furnishes as detailed reports of the visits of our boats to the Currituck Canal, Elizabeth City and Edenton, to gather with a list of the rebel vessels destroyed by our vessels since the fleet reached Hatteras, making seven vessels in all, six of which were well armed gunboats.

The army of General Halleck is pushing on its victories in Arkansas. An official despatch from that General, received yesterday by General McClellan, announces that Fayetteville, Arkansas (a town on White river, 196 miles northwest of Little Rock), was captured by General Curtis; that the rebels fled in great confusion across the Boston Mountains. They burnt a portion of the town before they retired, besides perpetrating an act of cowardly vandalism, which is almost difficult to believe, had it not been too fatally verified. The dastardly rebels left a quantity of poisoned meat behind them, which unhappily was partaken of by our troops, and resulted in poisoning forty officers and men of the Fifth Missouri cavalry, among them one or two valuable commanding officers. Such deeds entitle the perpetrators to no mercy.

The evacuation of Columbus remains as yet unconfirmed officially. The mysterious conference between the rebel officers, under a flag of truce, and Commodore Foote and General Cullum, on board the Commodore's flag boat, off Columbus, which we before announced, is more particularly referred to in our columns to-day. The conference lasted for two hours and a half, but it was considered of so much importance that strict secrecy was enjoined upon all those present until General Halleck, and possibly the Commander-in-Chief, can be consulted. "Certain it is that after the rebel officers returned to their true boat Commodore Foote signalled the Union fleet to return down the river. The general belief in the West is, that a proposition to evacuate Columbus in order to save it from destruction, constituted the mission of the flag of truce. A Cairo despatch, however, states that dull, heavy firing—like a rumbling explosion—was heard on Wednesday in the direction of Columbus, and it was supposed that the rebels might be blowing up their intrenchments.

Brigadier General Mitchell has issued an order

to his troops at Bowling Green enthusiastically acknowledging their arduous services in occupying that place, and enclosing a like order of commendation from Major General Buell. General Mitchell says that his men executed a march of forty miles in twenty-eight hours and a half, over fallen timber and other obstructions placed by the enemy in their track, and he adds:—"In the night time, over a frozen, rocky, precipitous pathway, down rude steps, for fifty feet, you have passed the advanced guard cavalry and infantry, and before the dawn of day you have entered in triumph a position of extraordinary natural strength, and by your enemy proudly dominated the Gibraltar of Kentucky. With your own hands, through deep mud, in dreaching rain, and up rocky pathways, next to impossible, and across a footpathed your own construction, built upon the ruins of the railway bridge destroyed for their protection by a retreating and panic-stricken foe, you have transported upon your own shoulders your baggage and camp equipment."

By the *Hibernian*, at Fowland, we learn that the American question was still debated in the English Parliament. Indeed if this subject were excluded the proceedings in both houses would possess no interest whatever. Earl Russell made an important declaration in the House of Lords, on the 10th instant, when he admitted that the peculiar circumstances of the United States justified "urgent measures"—such as arbitrary arrests by the government, and that even British subjects may be seized by order of the President, if "he believed that the parties were engaged in treasonable conspiracies." Parliament had given the same power to the British executive in times of difficulty, and it had been frequently exercised without the persons being brought to trial. The cases of the English subjects lately arrested in the United States would, however, be "earnestly watched" by the Cabinet.

The Earl of Malmesbury again complained of the "deliberate misrepresentation" of Earl Derby's speech as to the forcible raising of the blockade by the London *Times*. Lord Malmesbury approved of the conduct of Lord Palmerston so far with respect to the blockade. It was a matter for government alone to decide upon, but the real state of the measure should be inquired into. Earl Russell congratulated the House on the accord of opinion existing on the subject among the leading men of all parties.

Mr. Cobden was to call the attention of the Commons to the state of international and maritime law existing at present as affecting the rights of belligerents.

The prowess of the Union troops at the battle of Mill Springs had given the British public a new and more correct estimate of the force and power of our army.

Mr. LL. D. Russell has sent home another prophecy about the future operations of the Army of the Potomac, coupled with a statement concerning the morale and discipline of the men. The first should ruin his character as a military seer forever, and the second is of equal value with his description of the battle of Bull Run. He says that the army of the Potomac is not likely to move until winter is over, and adds positively that a "mutinous spirit" prevails among the men.

The Sumter was at Gibraltar on the 13th inst., under notice to quit. Another batch of her crew had landed and would not go on board again.

M. Thouvenel had received Mr. Sidiel at Paris in his private capacity. His diplomatic character is said to be completely ignored by Napoleon.

England approves of the idea of an elective monarchy for Mexico, and "if the people by a spontaneous movement place the Austrian Archduke on the throne," Earl Russell will not attempt to prevent it, but the government will not assist in a forcible intervention for that purpose.

## CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, the bill establishing a national foundry and furnace on the Hudson river or in New York harbor, was reported back by the Military Committee, with an amendment striking out the furnace. Mr. Davis introduced a substitute for the Confiscation bill, which was ordered to be printed. The bill to increase the efficiency of the medical department of the army was taken up. Amendments providing for an additional number of surgeons, to be selected from the medical corps, reducing the salaries of the Surgeon General, his assistants and medical inspectors, and providing that the act shall continue in force only so long as the rebellion lasts, were agreed to, and the bill passed. The report of the Conference Committee on the bill making appropriations for civil expenses was concurred in. The case of Senator Starke was resumed, and the resolution of the committee on the subject, declaring Mr. Starke entitled to a seat, was adopted by a vote of 25 to 19. Mr. Starke thereupon was qualified and took his seat. The Confiscation bill was taken up, and the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, the Conference Committee's report on the disagreeing amendments to the bill making appropriations for civil expenses, was agreed to. A bill providing additional clerks for the office of the New York Assistant Treasurer, was referred. A joint resolution to treat Washington's Farewell Address, Jackson's Proclamation on Nullification, and the Declaration of Independence, for general distribution, was referred to the Printing Committee. The case of Mr. Upton, who claims to represent the Fairfax district of Virginia, was again discussed, and the claimant declared not entitled to a seat by a vote of seventy-three to fifty. Resolutions of the Committee on Elections, confirming Mr. Verree in his right to a seat as representative from the Third district of Pennsylvania, were reported. Mr. Kline is the contestant. On motion of Mr. Washburne, from the government Contract Committee, a resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of War to communicate to the House the report and correspondence of the commission sitting at St. Louis for examination of the claims growing out of affairs in the Western Military Department. The schooner *Western Star*, Captain Crowell, arrived at this port yesterday from Key West, bringing advice to the 15th inst., from which we learn that everything was quiet at Key West and the troops in excellent health.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The steamship *Hibernian*, from Liverpool the 13th and Londonderry the 14th instant, reached Portland yesterday afternoon. Her arrival was five days later than the news brought by the *Niagara* to Halifax. The mails of the *Hibernian* were forwarded to New York last night.

Consols closed in London on the 15th instant at 93½ for money. The Bulletin in the Bank had increased 296,000 in the week. The latest quotations of American stocks were—Illinois Central shares, 4½ discount; Erie, 2½; &c.

It is said that the negotiations for a French four

millions sterling loan in London were "on" off. The British treasury returns for the year show an expenditure of eleven millions of dollars over income. The Liverpool cotton market was firm on the 15th instant. Prices tended still upward, but were unchanged. The stock on hand was estimated at 325,000 bales, of which 194,500 bales were American. Breadstuffs were steady and provisions dull.

The news from Germany is important, as it reports the commencement of an agitation among the powers which constitute the Confederation which may eventually lead to the dissolution of that body. The immediate cause of it is to be found in a Prussian despatch to the other German governments requesting a general consideration of a reform of the organization, and the absolute refusal of Saxony to accept it. Austria, Bavaria, Coburg, Baden, with other States, have taken a different view of the matter from Prussia, and a dissolution of the Federal Diet was expected in consequence. Demonstrations and printed manifestos in favor of Victor Emmanuel as king, and Rome as the capital, of Italy had been made at Genoa, Milan and other places. Sixteen coal mines had been drowned in a pit at Norwell, in Wales. The Pemberton pit, Newcastle, England, was flooded, and thousands of persons were thrown out of employment thereby. Senator Mon is appointed President of the Spanish Council. The impositions in Germany had produced the most disastrous consequences, eighty thousand persons having to be provided for by the public in one district.

Late advices from the West Coast of Africa represent the slave trade as exceedingly active. Since the withdrawal of the United States squadron the American flag was hoisted very freely by the dealers.

The State Senate at Albany yesterday passed the New York Port Captain and Harbor Masters bill, and the bill relative to dividends of life insurance companies. On the bills regulating shortfalls fees, and to permit the loaning of money in small amounts for more than the present legal rate of interest, adverse reports were made from the committees, and they were rejected. A majority report was made in favor of incorporating the New York State Homeopathic Society. The Brooklyn Charter Amendment bill was reported complete and ordered to a third reading. The bill amending the act of 1860 relative to the rights and liabilities of husbands and wives was ordered to a third reading. Progress was reported on the bill conferring on the Metropolitan police additional powers relative to the inspection of steam boilers. In the Assembly the Speaker announced the committee of five resolved upon the previous day to revise and consolidate all the game laws of the State into one law. The bill to improve the Central Park was ordered to a third reading; also that authorizing the Historical Society to establish a museum of antiquities and science and a gallery of arts in the State Arsenal building. The Public Defence bill was taken up and discussed at length, the greater part of the day's session being consumed over it. Progress was finally reported on it, and it was made the first special order for Saturday.

The Railroad Committee of the Assembly held a meeting yesterday and heard arguments on the Broadway Railroad. Several gentlemen addressed them, and the argument was closed. The committee will make their report on the subject next Monday. They have appointed Tuesday next to hear parties on the Spring Street Railroad; Wednesday, on the bill to reduce the fare on city railroads generally; and Thursday, for arguments on the Tenth Avenue and Forty-second Street Railroad. This day is to be devoted to fasting, humiliation and prayer throughout the bogus Confederate States of America, in response to a proclamation issued by Jeff. Davis.

Jeff. Davis, in his proclamation for a fast day, says that throughout the widespread limits of Rebellion "personal liberty and private rights have been duly honored." The evidences to sustain this assertion may be found in the persecutions of Parson Brownlow, the hanging of five Union men in Tennessee, and the order of the Secretary of War to "let them hang"; the imprisonment of prisoners in Memphis, the statement of the Richmond *Enquirer* that there are two hundred Union prisoners in the jails in that city, and the sending of men in New Orleans six months to the workhouse for expressing Union sentiments.

Jeff. Davis, in his inaugural address, estimates the aggregate strength of the two armies at a million of men. He knew that the Union forces numbered over six hundred thousand, and we therefore cannot do otherwise than accept his statement as an admission that his rebel followers do not count four hundred thousand.

According to the letter of M. F. Maury, the rebels are secretly building somewhere one hundred steam gunboats of the following dimensions:—112 feet long, 21 feet beam, 171 tons burthen, and six feet draft. Their armament is to be one nine-inch gun forward and a thirty-two pounder aft. They are to be ready about the 1st of June.

The people along the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, and on the East and West Canada creeks, in this State, are in great dread of an approaching flood. The snow in the northern section is said to be five and six feet deep on a level. A sudden rise in the streams depends in a great measure upon the manner in which the snow is carried off. If it should be melted by a warm rain there is no doubt a great flood would follow; but if carried off gradually by the warmth of the sun, as in many seasons has been the case, there would be no danger.

Another snow storm visited us yesterday. It commenced about one o'clock in the morning, and fell to the depth of three inches, but turned to a drizzling rain about noon. The Sound boats were detained about two hours, but the railroad trains came in at the regular time. The city horse cars were obliged to use double teams.

The Board of Aldermen adjourned on Monday, sine die, for want of a quorum, and no call for a meeting having been made, they did not organize last evening.

The Military Shoddy Contract Committee resumed their investigations at the St. Nicholas Hotel yesterday. Several witnesses were examined, among whom were some officers connected with the State Military Department. The committee seem determined to make the strictest investigation as to how and by whom the shoddy swindle was perpetrated. Some startling developments have already been made, and those who connived at the manufacture of such worthless clothing for our soldiers during the commencement of the war are "shaking in their boots."

The Board of Councilmen were in session last evening. A communication was received from his Honor the Mayor, accompanying the beautiful rebel flag captured by Acting Brigadier General Smith at the capture of Fort Donelson, presented through Mr. Bennett. The trophy was accepted, and will be placed in the archives of the City Hall. After the transaction of a good deal of routine business, the special order, being the tax levy for the present year, was taken up, and various amendments to the Comptroller's estimates were made, which will be found in the report of the proceedings. The total amount of the reduction made on the Comptroller's estimates is \$270,000.

The cotton market was firm yesterday, with sales of 600 to 800 bales, closing stiff on the basis of 25c for middling uplands. The flour market was less buoyant and slightly lower for some grades, while sales were moderate and chiefly to the domestic trade. Wheat was moderate and prices were irregular and in favor of purchasers, especially for common and medium grades. Corn was lower, with rather more doing at the decline; sales of Western wheat were made at 61c, a 63½c, in 25c, and 50¢ 42½c to 45¢ for prime do., and at 215 for 500 bushels deliverable in 30 days. The price of sugar was firm and 1½c better on the week's sales. The transaction embraced 1,500 hds. C and 200 boxes, at prices given in another column. Coffee was firmer, with sales of 3,500 bags Rio at 20c, a 21c. Freight was quite steady, while engagements were fair.

## The Collapsing Rebellion—The Groans of the Traitors.

The so-called "permanent government" of our rebellious Confederate States stands before its managers and its victims to-day the most humiliating revolutionary abortion, and the most painful mockery of a national reformation, with which any people have ever been afflicted since the revolt of Absalom against the government of his father, David, the anointed King of Israel. Our Southern traitors, late so bold and defiant, are reduced to the depths of despair. Jeff. Davis, in sackcloth and ashes, resorts to the sacrilegious mockery of another day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, while the members of his Cabinet and corps legislatif are bitterly denouncing each other like detected rogues, and while among his newspaper organs, from Richmond to New Orleans, we hear nothing but the sounds of "weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth."

From the bombardment of Fort Sumter down to the battle of Manassas the armed forces of this rebellion were raised and marched into Virginia under the war cry of "Washington—the city of Washington for our capital, and the liberation of Maryland." For many weeks after our disastrous day at Manassas "Washington" was still the boasted object of the army of Beauregard, and our efforts were mainly directed to the safety of our Federal city against a threatened rebel invasion. The rebel flag was advanced to Munson's Hill, within sight of President Lincoln from the southern windows of the White House, and for some time the speculations of the newspapers at Washington were mainly directed to the question whether Johnston and Beauregard intended to cross the Potomac by fording the stream above or by ferrying the river at some point below the city.

That was the climax of the rebellion. From that day down to this the bluster and insolent boasting of the rebel journals in regard to their designs upon Washington have declined, until at length their music is of the most doleful and dismal description. The Richmond *Dispatch* whistles desperately to keep its courage up, but confesses that "there are stories in the South (Union men), as there were stories in the Revolution, whose only sympathies are with the enemies of their country, who lament its victories (rebel) and rejoice over its defeats," but still the true men of the South, if driven from their seaports and cities into the interior, will, it thinks, "resist as long as resistance is possible, and, if conquered, they will not stay conquered." The Richmond *Enquirer* says, "If Nashville is taken, and if we lose, in consequence, all the country of which Nashville is the centre and capital, it is a question whether the Southern forces would not be stronger and better able than before to carry out the defensive ideas that have hitherto regulated this war; and from this opinion our Richmond philosopher proceeds to suggest a prudent backing down to the defensive interior line of the seaboard rebel States, leaving Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas and Western Virginia, as States and ground of doubtful Southern loyalty, to the tender mercies of the Lincoln government."

The Memphis *Appeal* complains bitterly of the increased rebel restrictions against the introduction of cotton into that town; the Knoxville (East Tennessee) *Register* finds some comfort in the fact that the property of loyal Union men in that region, including Senator Andy Johnson and a hundred and fifty others, has been sequestered as "the property of alien enemies," to the extent of a million and a half of dollars; the New Orleans *Della* is sorely troubled about our gunboats, and says "the experience we have already had has demonstrated the impracticability of destroying the iron-cased and strongly built gunboats of the enemy by the cannon of forts," but suggests that those boats may be captured by boarding them. This is the idea of the young rat who recommended that a bell be put on the cat; "for then," said he, "his approach will be announced, and we shall have time to scamper off." "But who," said the old rat, "is to put on the bell?" To conclude these quotations, however, the Charleston *Courier* confesses that "we have sustained heavy losses in munitions of war;" that "our country has been deprived of the services of several thousands of her best disciplined and bravest soldiers;" and that "the enemy pushes on, flushed with victory, to win more triumphs," but that Southern heroism should learn to become familiar with defeats and never despair.

The last hope of the rebel government and its organs is in Southern heroism and Southern endurance, against the loss of their principal States, their seaports and inland cities. But stubborn facts are very stubborn things; and the history of mankind has shown that when a people, scattered over a large area of territory, are reduced to the alternative of submission or destruction, they invariably submit. Moreover, a majority of the Southern people, even of the cotton States, were coerced into this rebellion by an armed and reckless secession minority; and although this reckless minority, to save themselves, would see the whole South laid waste by fire and sword, they know full well that there still exists a Southern popular majority which is only waiting for a favorable opportunity to take Davis and his associate usurpers into its own hands. These groans and howlings of the rebel government and its newspaper organs amount to nothing more than a confession that they have been playing a desperate game and have lost it. They are on the verge of retreating to their original Southern confederacy of the cotton States. But what earthly chance have they there, reduced to a population of five millions, including two millions of slaves, against the Union, with its twenty-six millions of people, and its encircling and overwhelming fleets and armies?

Before the expiration of another week we expect to hear of the flight of Davis & Company from Richmond between two days, and by the inland route, via Montgomery, to Mexico.

The Generalship of the Confederates and the Generalship of the Union Commanders.

The Generalship of the Confederates and the Generalship of the Union Commanders. The inaugural address of Jefferson Davis, the tone of the Southern papers since the capture of Fort Donelson, and the view that, though the rebels have received severe blows, they are not yet conquered, and that they will make a desperate resistance as long as they have a chance. The necks of the leaders depend on their success. The recent victories, though important, are not decisive, and it is illogical to draw any general inference from them. It may be that the Confederates never contemplated being able to permanently hold Missouri, Kentucky and Virginia, and that their object in occupying Virginia and the other border States was to obtain subsistence for their armies, to keep away the ravages of war from the cotton States, and to produce a moral effect in Europe by the apparent extent of their territory and by their quasi investment of Washington. The question now is, what is their prospect of success, even in the cotton States, which depends to some extent upon the capacity of their generals, upon which they have hitherto relied with considerable confidence. Their calculations, based upon their railroads, to maintain their communications, have been completely baffled.

The debates in the rebel Congress which we published on Wednesday reveal the fact that the generals apparently "had no plan of campaign," and hence, when their strong positions were suddenly assailed, they were unable to reinforce them. There seemed to be no military mind to combine and direct the whole operations. The Confederate generalship was denounced by Boyce and others as utter imbecility. In the same tone the Richmond, the Charleston and the New Orleans papers had spoken long before; and recent events seem to justify their censure. With the exception of Joe Johnston outgeneraling Patterson on the Shenandoah, and reaching Manassas in time to reinforce Beauregard for the battle of July 21, and the exploits of Price and Floyd in running away, the Southern generals appear to have displayed no strategy. In the battle of Manassas itself there was no generalship. It was won by the Southern troops against raw soldiers, not in pursuance of any plan of battle, as Beauregard admits, but contrary to his plan; and when the battle was won there was not sufficient generalship to take advantage of it and capture Washington, as might easily have been done. Beauregard has not as yet proved that he is more than a good engineer officer. He has exhibited neither strategic ability nor much tactical skill. Whether Albert Sydney Johnston, commanding in the West, is either a strategist or a tactician, still remains to be seen. Appearances, as well the case, are against him.

A good general would have seen the importance of the defence of the Tennessee and the Cumberland, and would have rendered those rivers impregnable to any but an overwhelming force. Instead of that, only small forces were posted in the forts on each river, and the forts—particularly Fort Henry—were erected at the wrong places. It is now admitted that the proper position for these forts was at the Narrows, where the two rivers, bending towards each other, contract the distance between them to three or four miles. Infinitely more important was this position than Bowling Green, on which so much labor had been spent in vain. Here was the natural defence of Nashville and Northern Alabama, and the loss of it has spread terror throughout the South. It is candidly admitted by our soldiers, and by all the Northern accounts of the battle at Fort Donelson, that the Southern troops fought admirably. But in war what avails the most desperate valor without generalship and a good cause?

So far the generalship of the rebels appears to be at fault in the West. Whether that arises from the self-conceit of Davis, who does not give to some one military mind the chief command, so as to devise a plan of defence and form strategic combinations, but either directs everything himself or allows his Secretary of War to do so—a man who knows nothing of military matters—or whether there is no general in the Confederate army of the requisite calibre to be commander-in-chief, is a problem still to be solved; for we must not conclude too hastily that everything is accomplished by the capture of Roanoke Island and the fall of the forts on the Tennessee and the Cumberland. All these are only outposts; and though Norfolk is turned by Burnside, and Bowling Green and Columbus have been turned by Halleck and Buell, the end is not yet. Though our troops have captured thirteen thousand men, the rebel army in Tennessee and Kentucky is not yet destroyed, and may be reinforced and combined. This army must be captured or dispersed before the work is done in that region.

Again the flower of the rebel army is still at Centerville, Manassas, Leesburg and Winchester, commanded by Joe Johnston and Gustavus Smith. The best officers in the whole Southern army are with these forces, which have also the advantage of possessing superior arms. The reports that a large portion of these troops had been sent to the Atlantic coast and to the Southwest turn out to be unfounded. Not a single regiment has left. The rebel armies of the Potomac and Shenandoah, therefore, must be defeated in a great battle before anything decisive is accomplished. When that is done the rebellion is crushed.

This task belongs to General McClellan, to whose grand combinations the advantages obtained on the Tennessee and the Cumberland are due. Those movements are a part of his plan. That he will very soon turn Manassas and Centerville, and cut off the supplies of the armies under Smith and Johnston, or compel them to come out of their intrenchments and fight him on a fair field, or retreat southward, we have not the slightest doubt. We have no fear of the result of the battle. The victory will be as decisive of the fate of the rebellion as Waterloo was of Napoleon. If they retreat without fighting the moral effect will be as disastrous to their cause. One important reason why they massed so large an army in front of Washington, and have been at so much pains to blockade the Potomac, was to give the impression in Europe that the capital of the country was continually threatened, well knowing that in European nations the loss of the capital is equivalent to the conquest of the country or the overthrow of the government. And though that would not be the result of the capture of Washington, for that city is not to the United States what Paris is to France, or

Vienna to Austria, still it is desirable to remove the moral effect of the menace as soon as possible. If the rebel army retreats to the cotton States without fighting, then its defeat will be insured; for our lines can be contracted and the enemy can be surrounded with overwhelming numbers. With the insurgent armies in Kentucky and Tennessee overthrown, the armies in Virginia either defeated or put to flight, and with Nashville and Richmond in the possession of our troops, the utter extinction of the rebellion in every Southern State would only be the work of sixty days.

We have every confidence in the success of our generals. Their troops are better armed, better clothed, better equipped and better supplied with ammunition and provisions, and their generalship is now superior to that which guides the rebels.

How is it that our generals are better than theirs? They are all West Point officers, both Northern and Southern. They are both naturally of the same average ability. The army experience of both is about the same—limited to the Mexican campaign. But here is the difference. The Southern officers have remained in the army, doing nothing ever since. The consequence is they know nothing but make army routine. The Northern officers not content with so inactive a life, have embarked in business pursuits, which have sharpened their wits and enlarged their capacity for generalship. For instance, the intimate knowledge of railroads and the telegraph which General McClellan has acquired in the interval of his leaving the army and his now taking up arms for the Union gives him an immense advantage. Northern men, too, are better acquainted than Southern men with the mechanical arts so necessary in the operations of the field, and they are more farseeing, active and energetic from the climate and the habits of the population. It is true George Washington was a Southerner; but he is an exception to the rule. There was but one Washington, and we shall never look upon his like again. It is evident that the chances are against the South, for other reasons besides the maxim of Napoleon, that the Lord is always on the side of the heaviest artillery.

## The War Department and the Press.

The recent order of the Secretary of War in regard to the publication of war news has excited considerable comment, and provoked much angry invective from the abolition newspapers; and, in order to correct any misapprehensions of the Secretary's meaning, we must state a few facts connected with the matter.

Secretary Stanton's order is but a repetition of that of Mr. Cameron, with several particulars added, and that neither of these orders is half so stringent as that issued by the rebel government. As far as the close interpretation of the words of the order is concerned, it must be remembered that Secretary Stanton writes his emphatic manifestoes slap-dash, and with great mental reservations. He imagines that every one must understand, as clearly as he does, just what he wishes to say; and, indeed, it is only those who are blinded by prejudice who cannot read and comprehend his orders aright. Mr. Stanton intends, then, to prohibit only the transmission and publication of any intelligence in regard to movements contemplated, plans formed, expeditions designed, victories organized and troops strategically concentrated. Such information can be of no great interest to the public, but is of incalculable service to the rebels, who are thus forewarned of our intentions and forearmed to defeat our armies. The transmission and publication of movements accomplished, plans carried out, expeditions successful, victories won and troops triumphant, the Secretary has no intention of suppressing, but will, on the contrary, greatly facilitate. This is precisely what is meant by his order, and we may add that it is only for a temporary object, which will be evident in a few days, and is not intended to remain in force during the war, although it might very properly be made binding till the rebellion is put down.

No difference whatever, therefore, will be seen in the contents of this government control of the telegraph. We have always fulfilled what we knew to be the wish of the government and the duty of a loyal journal, and have carefully refrained from publishing any premature information which might aid the rebels and hinder our arms. The journals which will be crippled are those abolition organs which, for certain purposes of their own, have aided to prolong this war by furnishing the rebels with the fullest details of our purposes and our forces, in spite of the repeated warnings and remonstrances of the commanding officers. The *Tribune*, with the report of General Thomas; the *Times*, with the account of Sherman's expedition; the *World*, with the revelations in regard to the forces and destination of General Burnside's division, are instances of these disloyal and objectionable publications. The argument that the rebels have other sources of information is sophistical; for, even if they have, why should we not deprive them of this? The idea that the New York journals do not reach the rebel headquarters is a mistaken one; for in some way through secret agents the New York dailies are received at Richmond as regularly as at Washington. A moment's reflection will expose the futility of the statement, also, that no reliable information of military matters can be obtained from newspapers. In spite of the strict regulations of the rebel Congress, the *Herald* was able to compile, from the few Southern papers received here, a list of the officers of the rebel army so minutely accurate that the clerks of the rebel War Department were accused of furnishing us with our information, and a committee of investigation was appointed by the rebel Congress to ferret out our suspected informants. If we could accomplish this, in spite of the careful vigilance exercised in regard to the contents of the rebel papers, how greatly must the rebels have profited by the unrestricted, treasonable and premeditated revelations of the abolition organs.

Secretary Stanton's order is evidently most just, and most necessary, therefore. A good newspaper, like a good citizen or a good soldier, will do its utmost to assist the government, and will refrain from giving aid to the rebels by even an indiscreet word. This has always been at once the duty and the policy of the *Herald*, and we have, consequently, nothing to regret and nothing to change in our news matter. We hope that the Secretary of War will rightly enforce his wise order, and not allow it to become a dead letter, to be disregarded at pleasure, like that of Mr. Cameron.